

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1216018-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 5
Page 17 ~ Duplicate - to page 4;
Page 18 ~ Duplicate - to page 5;
Page 19 ~ Duplicate - to page 6;
Page 20 ~ Duplicate - to page 7;
Page 21 ~ Duplicate - to page 8;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.**

To: **FBI, Springfield (9-1027)**

Date: **July 3, 1961**

EX-109 REC-53 7- 38867-

Re: **OTIS KEMMER, GOVERNOR,
STATE OF ILLINOIS - VICTIM
EXTORTION**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **D-370045 HQ**
Lab. No.

Examination requested by: **Springfield**
Reference: **Airtel 6-29-61**
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**
Remarks:

Q1 through Q4 will be returned separately with the latent fingerprint report.

b6
b7C

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2 - Chicago - Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

MAILED 20
JUL 3 - 1961
COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- Belmont
- Mohr
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

9 38867
CET:10 (6)

b6
b7C

5 JUL 14 1961 TELETYPE

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C.

To: FBI, Springfield

Date:

July 3, 1961

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

~~38887~~
D-370845 EQ

Re: Unsub,
OTTO KERNER, GOVERNOR,
STATE OF ILLINOIS - VICTIM
EXTORTION

Specimens received 6-30-61

- Q1 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
Gov Mansion Springfield Ill." postmarked "CHICAGO 112 ILL.
JUN 25 1961 11 PM"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Gov. Kerner,
You dirty....."
- Q3 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
State House Springfield, Ill" postmarked "CHICAGO 103 ILL.
JUN 26 1961 2:30 PM"
- Q4 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter dated 6-25-61,
beginning "Gov. Otto Kerner State House Springfield, Ill.
It won't be very...."

Result of examination:

Q1 through Q4 were compared with material in the Anonymous
Letter File without effecting an identification.

It has been concluded that Q1 and Q2 were not written by
the writer of Q3 and Q4.

No watermarks or other marks were found on Q1 through Q4
which would indicate their source.

Q1 through Q4 will be returned separately. Photographs
are retained.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
DeLoach _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

9

58887

SM

CET:10 (6)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: CHAS. J. STANLEY
OLYMPIAN, OREGON
State of Illinois - WHITE
EXTORTION

File # 60000
Lab. # 1-370000 10

b6
b7c

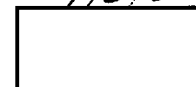
Examination requested by: FBI, Springfield (9-1027) Airtel 6/29/61

Examination requested: Doc. - Fingerprint

Date received: 6/30/61

Result of Examination:

Examination by:



1. No ident ALF
III A, III E III and
San. States 6-30-61 - not added
2. Q1-2 NI Q3-4
3. No wsm or other marks
4. Photo

LEPS

Specimens submitted for examination

1. Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
Springfield, Springfield Ill." postmarked "CHICAGO 118 ILL.
JUN 25 1961 11 5."
2. Accompanying letter to Honorable Governor Kerner, Springfield, Ill.
"Gov. Kerner,"
3. Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
Springfield, Springfield, Ill." postmarked "CHICAGO 118 ILL.
JUN 25 1961 11 5."
4. Accompanying letter to Honorable Governor Kerner, Springfield, Ill.
"Gov. Kerner,"

FBI

Date: 6-29-61

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (9-1027)

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
~~OTTO KERNER~~, Governor,
State of Illinois - VICTIM
EXTORTION

370845

On 6/29/61 [redacted] Investigator,
Illinois State Police, Springfield, Illinois, furnished
the following (2) described letters which were received by
Governor OTTO KERNER, State of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois.

The first letter was received by Governor KERNER on
6/26/61. This letter was addressed to "Gov. Otto Kerner,
Gov. Mansion, Springfield, Ill." The letter was postmarked
at Chicago, Illinois, on 6/25/61 at 11:00 PM, branch number
112. The letter read as follows:

"Gov. Kerner:

"You dirty, stinking son of a bitch, I hope you
choke to death on the words you used before election. I
hope you go to hell in the bargain. Your mother ought to
go with you because she's the cause of bringing lying scum
like you into this world.

"Yes, you're for the people, you're kind of people.
Scum, corruption and thievery. I wish I could get the
chance to raise you - off your feet with a rope around your
scummy neck.

- P.
3 - Bureau (Encls.4) (AM RM)
2 - Chicago (Encls.4) (AM RM)
2 - Springfield (9-1027)
KLB:vm1
(7)

EX-105

REC-53

MCI-10

38867-1

JUN 30 1961

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

b6
b7C

INDEXED
JUL 1 1961
FBI

F B I

Date: 6-29-61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SI 9-1027

"A voter who believed you.

"I hope someone kills you in the next 30 days.

(Unsigned) "

The second letter was received by Governor KERNER on 6/27/61. This letter was addressed to "Gov. Otto Kerner, State House, Springfield, Ill." and postmarked at Chicago, Illinois, on 6/26/61 at 2:30 PM, branch number 103. This letter read as follows:

"6-25-61

"Gov. Otto Kerner
State House
Springfield, Ill.

"It won't be very health for you if you raise taxes, sales or any other kind.

"If you dammed jews would not steal the tax payers money there would be sufficient money to pay the State's expenses. Jew [redacted] no doubt stole enough money to live in luxury for the rest of his life. We will follow him with a rope.

"If you pressure the legislature to raise taxes, in store for you is what Jew Cernak got.

"You were not elected by the people but were cheated in like Kennedy by the Jews.

"Our sleeping giant, the anti-Jew youth is making up and the jew's thievery is at an end.

"The whole world hates you cursed jews because the

- 2 -

b6
b7c

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 6-28-61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SI 9-1027

"jews have brought the whole world to chaos and you jews must be exterminated to save the whole world. Morocco had a good scheme to get rid of the jews by sinking them into the sea but there is a faster way.

"Anti-Jew"

[redacted] advised the above-mentioned letters were received at the Illinois State Police Headquarters from Governor KERNER's office late afternoon 6/28/61, and he telephonically contacted [redacted], Postal Inspector, Springfield, Illinois, read contents of letters to him, and was advised by [redacted] that he was not sure if there was a violation and suggested that the letters be brought to the attention of the Postal Inspectors in Chicago.

Further discussion with Superintendent WILLIAM H. MORRIS, Illinois State Police, suggested that ~~he~~ bring these letters to the attention of the FBI.

On this date enclosed letters were made available to HARLINGTON WOOD, JR., United States Attorney, Southern District of Illinois, Springfield, Illinois, for review and he discussed the letters with AUSA [redacted] of the same office, at which time both stated that inasmuch as victim is a public official and there appears to be a possible threat, he requested that investigation be conducted in an effort to identify the senders and further, that there may be additional letters sent in the future.

Enclosures to Bureau : Original letter and envelope addressed to Gov. OTTO KERNER, State House, Springfield, Illinois - envelope postmarked June 26, 1961, Chicago, Illinois.

Original letter and envelope addressed to Gov. OTTO KERNER, Governor's Mansion, Springfield, Ill. - Envelope postmarked June 25, 1961, Chicago, Illinois

- 3 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

FBI

Date: 6-29-61

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

SI 9-1027

Enclosures to Chicago Division: Photostats of original letter and envelope addressed to Gov. OTTO KERNER, State House, Springfield, Illinois - envelope postmarked June 26, 1961, Chicago, Illinois.

Photostats of original letter and envelope addressed to Gov. OTTO KERNER, Governor's Mansion, Springfield, Ill. - Envelope postmarked June 25, 1961, Chicago, Illinois.

The FBI Laboratory is requested to ascertain if both letters were written by the same individual or individuals. It is further suggested that these letters be checked through the Anonymous Letter File and other appropriate files to determine if the subject is a prolific extortion letter writer and then forward same to the Latent Fingerprint Section for processing for any latent fingerprints of value. It should be noted that these letters have been handled by numerous employees in the Governor's Office as well as members of the Illinois State Police.

LEADS: CHICAGO DIVISION

Chicago is furnished Photostats of the mentioned letters so that they may bring this to the attention of the Postal Inspector for his information and also to determine the location of Post Office branch numbers 103 and 112. Will then conduct appropriate investigation at the mentioned Post Office branches 103 and 112 to ascertain any information re letters.

Upon completion of examination by the FBI Laboratory, the Chicago Division may be requested to conduct additional investigation.

Investigation continuing Springfield. (See Addendum)

- 4 -

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI

Date June 29, 1967

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)SI 9-1027
VTH:lbADDENDUM:

Governor OTTO KERNER interviewed this date and advised he had no suspects. He stated he had no knowledge of his office receiving letters of a like nature and inquiry with his secretary substantiates this. He stated "I wish they had shown me the letters before they sent them through channels". His secretary indicated that the governor was displeased because she and the Illinois State Police had put so much emphasis on the two letters.

KERNER advised he has been in public life for a long time and he is not concerned about the letters and classified them as the work of disgruntled taxpayers who are simply taking this means to let off steam. He knows of no other incident concerning himself or his family which could in any way be connected with the transmission of these letters.

GIBBONS

-5-

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

7-2 Recorded
6/30/61 RH

7-2 LAB FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
OTTO KERNER, Governor,
State of Illinois - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File # 7-3886-7
Lab. # D-370845 EQ

Examination requested by: FBI, Springfield (9-1027) Airtel 6/29/61

Examination requested: Doc. - Fingerprint

Date received: 6/30/61

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

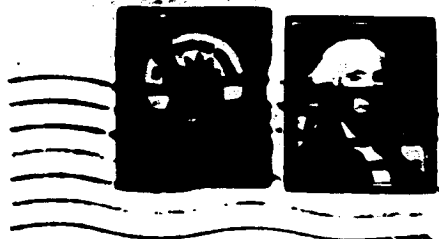
b6
b7C

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
Gov Mansion Springfield Ill." postmarked "CHICAGO 118 ILL.
JUN 25 1961 11 PM"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Gov. Kerner
You dirty"
- Q3 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov Otto Kerner
State House Springfield, Ill" postmarked "CHICAGO 103 ILL.
JUN 26 1961 2:30 PM"
- Q4 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter dated 6/25/61,
beginning "Gov. Otto Kerner State House Springfield, Ill.
It ~~will~~ won't be very....."

8821

AFTER 5 DAYS RETURN TO



Mr. Otto Kurnet
The Mansion
Springfield
Ill.

D-370345 Q1 EQ



Mr. J. Kerner
c/o House
Springfield, Ill

Gov. (Mr. D. W. ...)

6-25

State House
Springfield, Ill.

It won't be very healthy for you
if you raise taxes, rates or any other kind.
If you demand taxes did not steal the
tax payer's money there would be sufficient
money to pay the State's debt. I am sure
no doubt that enough to live on for
the rest of the life. We will follow him with
a rope.

If you pressure the legislature to raise
taxes, in store for you is what Jew Ceinok got.

You were not elected by the people but
were elected in like Kennedy by the Jews.

Our sleeping giant, the anti-Jew youth are
waking up and the Jew's shiver is at an end.

The whole world hates you cursed Jews because
the Jews have brought the whole world to
chaos and you Jews must be exterminated
to save the whole world. Morocco had a good
plan to get rid of its Jews by sending them
into the sea but it was a faster way.

Anti-Jew

you dirty thinking son of a bitch I hope you choke to death on
all the words you need before election. I hope you go to hell
in the bargain. your mother ought to go with you because
she's the cause of bringing my dearest son like you into this
world

Yes yours for the people Your kind of people. Scum corruption
chewing. I wish I could get the chance to raise you -
off your feet with a rope around your ~~strong~~ neck
A water into blood you.

Hope some one tells you in the next 3 days

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 1 1961

TELETYPE

URGENT 6-29-61 4-27-61 PM CDST PB

TO DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, CHICAGO

FROM SAC, SPRINGFIELD 9-1027 1P

UNSUB. OTTO KERNER, GOVERNOR, STATE OF ILLINOIS - VICTIM
EXTORTION. ON JUNE TWENTYNINE INSTANT ILLINOIS STATE POLICE

FURNISHED TWO LETTERS ADDRESSED TO VICTIM CONTAINING POSSIBLE
THREATS. BOTH LETTERS POSTMARKED CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - USA, SDI,

REVIEWED LETTERS AND ADVISED THAT SINCE POSSIBLE THREAT EXISTS

[REDACTED] SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. LETTERS BEING

FORWARDED TO BUREAU THIS DATE WITH COPIES TO CHICAGO. VICTIM
INTERVIEWED THIS DATE. HAS NO SUSPECTS. RECEIVED NO PREVIOUS
LIKE COMMUNICATIONS. STATES WISHES HIS OFFICE HAD SHOWN LETTERS
TO HIM BEFORE FORWARDING THROUGH CHANNELS. READ LETTERS AND
STATED WERE WORK OF DISGRUNTLED TAXPAYERS LETTING OFF STEAM.
INVESTIGATION INSTITUTED. FBI

END AND ACK PLS.....

WA 5-30 PM OK FBI WA DA

CG M OK FBI CG EAM

TU FISC

REC-80

JUL 5 1961

50 JUL 11 1961

7-4-61

airtel

airmail

TO: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (9-1027)
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI
RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
OTTO KERNER, GOVERNOR,
STATE OF ILLINOIS - VICTIM
EXTORTION.

Reurairtel 6-25-61.

A total of fourteen latent fingerprints and one latent
palm print of value were developed on the two letters and envelopes.

The submitted items are being returned separately.

Laboratory report separate.

1 - Chicago

GRG:prk
(6)

airtel mailed from Ident. Div. 7-4-61 prk

EX 100

REC-51

7-35517-3
21 JUL 7 1961

9

38867

8

JUL 12 1961

ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

7-2
Recorded
6/30/61

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Recorded 7/1/61 12:00 Noon/12
Laboratory Work Sheet

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
OTTO KERNER, Governor,
State of Illinois - VICTIM
EXTORTION

File #
Lab. # D-370845 EQ

Examination requested by: FBI, Springfield (9-1027) Airtel 6/29/61

Examination requested: Doc. - Fingerprint

Date received: 6/30/61

Result of Examination:

Examination by:



b6
b7C

*1-4
Kerner, not: pnc*

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov. Otto Kerner
Gov Mansion Springfield Ill." postmarked "CHICAGO 112 ILL.
JUN 25 1961 11 PM"
- Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "Gov. Kerner,
You dirty"
- Q3 Envelope bearing the handwritten address "Gov Otto Kerner
State House Springfield, Ill" postmarked "CHICAGO 103 ILL.
JUN 26 1961 2:30 PM"
- Q4 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter dated 6/25/61,
beginning "Gov. Otto Kerner State House Springfield, Ill.
It ~~won't~~ won't be very....."

cc to Chicago

F B I

Date: 7/11/61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (9-3086)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
OTTO KERNER, Governor,
State of Illinois - VICTIM
EXTORTION
(OO: SPRINGFIELD)

Re Springfield airtel to Bureau dated 6/29/61.

On 7/10/61, [redacted] Postal Inspector's Office, Main Post Office, 433 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, was shown by SA [redacted] the two envelopes addressed to the victim that were postmarked 6/25 and 26/61, at Chicago. He stated the numbers 112 and 103, respectively, in the postmark are the serial numbers of the cancelling machines and are not Post Office Branch numbers. He stated all mail deposited in Chicago is collected and sent to the Main Post Office where it is postmarked and cancelled on the 8th floor. Because of this, he stated the numbers 103 and 112 have no significance. He stated there is no way to determine from the postmark where the envelopes were deposited in the mail.

On 7/11/61, [redacted] Main Post Office, advised that he handles all extortion and obscene letters referred to the Chicago Postal Inspectors. The contents of the two letters addressed to Governor KERNER

RUC.

- (3) - Bureau
- 2 - Springfield (9-1027)
- 1 - Chicago

JAP:mak/nte
(6)

REC-12

JUL 13 1961

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M

Special Agent in Charge

JUL 18 1961

SIX

b6
b7Cb6
b7C

CG 9-3086

were made known to [] and he stated that no similar letters concerning the Governor had ever been brought to his attention. He stated he would immediately advise the FBI if any such letters were referred to the Postal Inspectors.

b6
b7C

In view of the above, no further investigation is contemplated by Chicago.

GALE

Invoice of Contents from
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Date 7-5-61Case References UNSUB.;Consigned to: SAC, Springfield
(9-1027)

OTTO KERNER, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ILLINOIS - VICTIM
EXTORTION

715247

RECEIVED

JUL 5 - 1961

COMM-FBI

List of Contents

7-4-61
Crypt.-Trans.
Document
Electronics
Physics-Chemistry
Labs

3 Envelopes and accompanying letters

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS: Mail Room, place date of shipment and registry number; Shipping Room, show date of shipment, bill of lading number and initial this invoice; then return it to section checked in column at right. After this checked section has been initialed, invoice should be placed in administrative file.

9

38867

55 JUL 12 1961

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office Springfield	Office of Origin Springfield	Date 8/16/61	Investigative Period 6/2/61 - 8/14/61
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; OTTO KERNER, Governor, State of Illinois - VICTIM		Report made by SA [redacted]	Typed By: GL
		CHARACTER OF CASE EXTORTION	

XXXXX:

REFERENCE

Springfield teletype to Bureau and Chicago dated June 29, 1961;
Springfield airtel to Director dated June 29, 1961;
Bureau letter to Springfield dated July 3, 1961;
Chicago airtel to Director dated July 11, 1961.

- C -

Approved

Special Agent
In Charge

Do not write in spaces below

See made:

① - Bureau

1 - USA, Springfield

1 - Springfield

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F.B.I.

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

22 AUG 18 1961

STAT. SECT.

- A* -

3 AUG 27 1961

COVER

PAGE 9

3 8 8 6 7

5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONCopy to: *USA, Springfield*Report of: SA
Date: *August 15, 1961*Office: *Springfield*b6
b7CField Office File No.: *Q-1027*

Bureau File No.:

Title: *UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
OTTO KERNER, Governor,
State of Illinois - VICTIM*Character: *EXTORTION*

Synopsis: *Victim received two anonymous letters postmarked Chicago, Illinois. Unknown subject apparently not satisfied with victim's actions since becoming Governor of Illinois. USA and AUSA, SDI reviewed letters and stated letters appear to be a threat within the statute. Victim interviewed and stated he thought letters were the result of "some disgruntled taxpayer letting off steam". No additional letters received since date of above two letters.*

- C -

9

DETAILS:

This case is predicated upon information furnished by [redacted] Illinois State Police, State Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Illinois, who personally appeared at the Springfield Office of the FBI on June 29, 1961, with two letters which had been received by Governor OTTO KERNER, State of Illinois, Springfield. The letters are as follows:

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The first letter was received by Governor KERNER on June 26, 1961. This letter was addressed to "Gov. Otto Kerner, Gov. Mansion, Springfield, Ill." The letter was postmarked at Chicago, Illinois, on June 25, 1961, at 11:00 PM, branch number 112. The letter read as follows:

"Gov. Kerner:

"You dirty, stinking son of a bitch, I hope you choke to death on the words you used before election. I hope you go to hell in the bargain. Your mother ought to go with you because she's the cause of bringing lying scum like you into this world.

"Yes, you're for the people, you're kind of people. Scum, corruption and thievery. I wish I could get the chance to raise you - off your feet with a rope around your scummy neck.

"A voter who believed you.

"I hope someone kills you in the next 30 days.

(Unsigned)"

The second letter was received by Governor KERNER on June 27, 1961. This letter was addressed to "Gov. Kerner, State House, Springfield, Ill." and postmarked at Chicago, Illinois, on June 26, 1961, at 2:30 PM, branch number 103. This letter read as follows:

"6/25/61

"Gov. Otto Kerner
State House
Springfield, Ill.

"It won't be very health for you if you raise taxes, sales or any other kind.

"If you damned jews would not steal the tax payers money there would be sufficient money to pay the State's expenses. Jew [redacted] no doubt stole enough money to live in luxury for the rest of his life. We will follow him with a rope.

b6
b7C

"If you pressure the legislature to raise taxes, in store for you is what Jew Cermak got.

"You were not elected by the people but were cheated in like Kennedy by the Jews.

"Our sleeping giant, the anti-Jew youth is making up and the jew's thievery is at an end.

"The whole world hates you cursed jews because the jews have brought the whole world to chaos and you jews must be exterminated to save the whole world. Morocco had a good scheme to get rid of the jews by sinking them into the sea but there is a faster way.

"Anti-Jew"

[redacted] advised that the above-mentioned letters were received at the Illinois State Police Headquarters from Governor KERNER's office late afternoon June 25, 1961, and he telephonically contacted [redacted] Springfield, Illinois, read contents of letters to him, and was advised by [redacted]

b6
b7C

SI 9-1027

that he was not sure if there was a violation and suggested the letters be brought to the attention of the Postal Inspectors in Chicago.

Further discussion with Superintendent WILLIAM H. MORRIS, Illinois State Police, suggested that he bring those letters to the attention of the FBI.

On June 29, 1961, the letters were reviewed by United States Attorney HARLINGTON WOOD, Jr., and Assistant United States Attorney [REDACTED] who advised that the letters appeared to contain a threat within the meaning of the Statute.

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b7C

Date 6-30-61

On June 29, 1961, Governor OTTO KERNER, State of Illinois, was interviewed at his office in the Capitol Building, Springfield, Illinois. He was shown the two letters involved in this case and after reading them advised that it was the first time he had seen them. He stated, "I wish that my office had shown me these letters before they sent them through channels".

The Governor indicated that he had no idea who could have written the letters and he has no suspects. He stated he has not received any like mail and there is no incident that has happened either at his office or at his home which could be connected with the transmission of these letters.

Governor KERNER advised he is not concerned about the receipt of these letters and stated he thought they were the result of "some disgruntled taxpayer letting off steam".

The Governor advised that in the event his office received further mail of a like nature it would be brought to the attention of the Springfield Office.

On 6-29-61 at Springfield, Illinois File # 9-1027

by SA [redacted] VLS Date dictated 6-29-61

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

By communication dated July 3, 1961, the FBI Laboratory reported results of examination of letters submitted to the Laboratory by communication dated June 29, 1961, as follows:

- "Q1 Envelope bearing the handwritten address 'Gov. Otto Kerner Gov Mansion Springfield Ill.' postmarked 'CHICAGO 112 ILL. JUN 25 1961 11 PM'
- Q2 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning 'Gov. Kerner, You dirty...'
- Q3 Envelope bearing the handwritten address 'Gov. Otto Kerner State House Springfield, Ill.' postmarked 'CHICAGO 103 ILL. JUN 26 1961 2:30 PM'
- Q4 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter dated 6-25-61, beginning 'Gov. Otto Kerner State House Springfield, Ill. It won't be very...'

Result of examination:

"Q1 through Q4 were compared with material in the Anonymous Letter File without effecting any identification.

"It has been concluded that Q1 and Q2 were not written by the writer of Q3 and Q4.

"No watermarks or other marks were found on Q1 through Q4 which would indicate their source."

By communication dated July 11, 1961, the Chicago Division advised as follows:

On July 10, 1961, [redacted] Postal Inspector's Office, Main Post Office, 433 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, was shown by SA [redacted] the two envelopes addressed to the victim that were postmarked June 25 and 26, 1961, at Chicago. He stated that the numbers 112 and 103, respectively, in the postmark are the serial

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b7c

numbers of the cancelling machines and are not Post Office Branch numbers. He stated all mail deposited in Chicago is collected and sent to the Main Post Office where it is postmarked and cancelled on the 8th floor. Because of this, he stated the numbers 103 and 112 have no significance. He stated that there is no way to determine from the postmark where the envelopes were deposited in the mail.

On July 11, 1961, [redacted] Main Post Office, advised that he handles all extortion and obscene letters referred to the Chicago Postal Inspectors. The contents of the two letters addressed to Governor KERNER were made known to [redacted] and he stated that no similar letters concerning the Governor had ever been brought to his attention. He stated he would immediately advise the FBI if any such letters were referred to the Postal Inspectors.

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On August 14, 1961, [redacted] Illinois State Police, State Bureau of Investigation, Springfield, Illinois, advised that he had received no information that the Governor had received any additional letters since those received in June, 1961, which he made available and are described in this report. He stated in the event any additional letters are received he would immediately contact the FBI, Springfield Office.

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